

**TRIDAX YECORANA (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) A NEW SPECIES
FROM SONORA, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

Tridax yecorana B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated. It is an annual herb known only from type material collected near Yecora, Sonora, and is related to *T. erecta*. It differs from the latter in numerous characters which are discussed in the text.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Tridax*, México, Sonora, systematics

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

TRIDAX YECORANA B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Sonora: Arroyo El Otro Lado, Mesa El Otro Lado, 1-2 km NNE of Yecora on old road to Maycoba, pine-oak forest, 28° 23' 49" N, 108° 54' 48" W, 1520 m, 7 Sep 1995, T.R. Van Devender 95-836 (with A.L. Reina G., D.A. Yetman, and M.E. Fishbein) (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Similis *T. erectae* A. Gray sed foliis linearibus-lanceolatis (vice foliorum ovatorum), glaberis aut sparsim glanduliferis-pubescentibus (vice hispidissimorum), involucris campanulatis (vice urceolatorum) glaberisque (vice pubescentium), acheniis rigide pubescentibus (vice molliter pubescentium), et pappis 1-2 mm longis (vice 2.5-5.0 mm).

Annual herbs 7-20 cm high. Stems mostly unbranched, sparsely pubescent with glandular trichomes 0.5-1.0 mm long. Leaves linear-lanceolate, mostly 1-2 mm wide. Heads single on peduncles, 4-15 cm long, pubescent like the stems. Involucres campanulate, 4-6 mm high, 4-9 mm wide (pressed); bracts 3-4 seriate, broadly elliptical to oblanceolate, glabrous, the apices broadly rounded, scarious. Receptacles conical, 2-3 mm across, 2.0-2.5 mm high; bracts scarious, persistent, oblanceolate to linear-oblanceolate, variously 2-3 cleft at their apices. Ray florets pistillate, fertile;

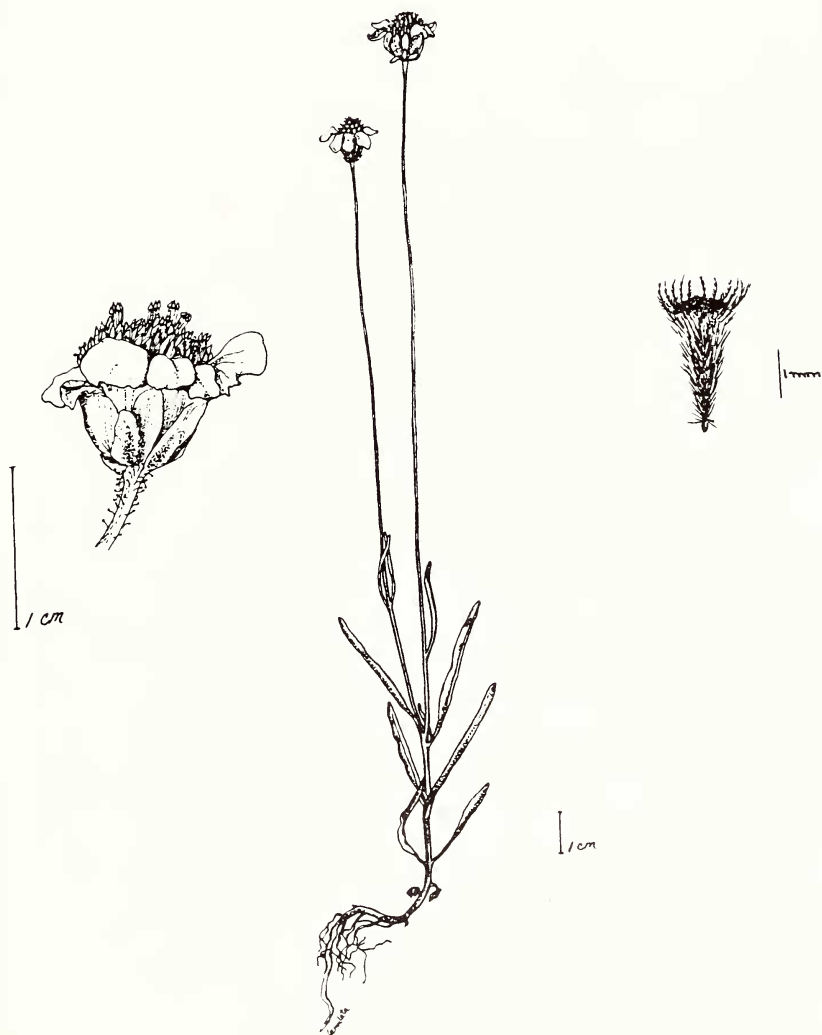


Figure 1. *Tridax yecorana*, from holotype; left, a single head; right, a disk achene.

corollas yellow; tube ca. 2 mm long, densely pilose; ligules mostly 4-5 mm long, 3-4 mm wide. Disk florets 10-25; corollas yellow, ca. 3 mm long, the tubes ca. 0.8 mm long, densely pilose; throat ca. 2 mm long, gradually ampliate upwards, the 5 lobes markedly nervate. Anthers yellow, their apices trianguloid, keeled inwardly. Achenes of disk and ray florets similar, obpyramidal, ca. 2 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, densely pubescent with stiff ascending hairs 0.5-1.0 mm long; pappus of 20 or more short plumose scales 1-2 mm long.

Tridax yecorana, in habit, superficially resembles *T. coronopifolia* H.B.K. but is clearly most closely related to *T. erecta* A. Gray, differing from the latter in having linear, nearly glabrous leaves, campanulate completely glabrous involucre, ray florets with densely villous tubes, and achenes with stiffer hairs and shorter pappus scales.

Tridax erecta (including the recently described *T. durangensis* A. Garcia Arévalo, which appears to be but a form of that species) has ovate, coarsely pubescent leaves, involucre urceolate with loose outer bracts and coarsely pubescent inner bracts, and more softly pubescent achenes with longer pappus scales.

According to label data on the type sheet, *Tridax yecorana* is a "Locally very common annual."

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